

# THE TIMES.

FAVETTE:

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8, 1841.

## REPORT OF THE POST MASTER GENERAL.

This report will be found in this morning's paper. Notwithstanding Mr. Wickliffe's regret that his recent induction into office would prevent him from giving such a report as might be expected, we are sure that, when our readers have read it, and seen the able manner in which he treats of the business of his Department, they will feel assured that they have a servant at the head of the post office department who will not fall short of his duty.

There are many valuable suggestions in the Report, which, if they are attended to as the wants of the community call for, cannot fail to be of the greatest benefit, not only in increasing the revenue of the Department, but also in giving greater regularity and despatch to the mails.

Particularly in the west, do we feel the effects of the irregularity of the mails; and from the tone of the Report, and the hitherto manifest disposition of the Post Master General to remedy difficulties by a strict enquiry into the management of the affairs of the Department, we hope we shall soon hear less grumbling.

The Report is not very lengthy and should be read. The Reports from the heads of the other Departments, we will lay before our readers at as early a day as possible.

## EXCHEQUER OF THE UNITED STATES.

Below will be found the Agency of the Treasury recommended by the President in his Message. It was submitted to Congress by the Secretary of the Treasury, in pursuance of a resolution adopted, accompanied by a Report explanatory of the Bill. The length of the Report precludes our giving it this week—but it shall appear in our next. We regret that we cannot give the Report with the Bill, as it would greatly have assisted the reader in more properly understanding its proposed operations. Speaking of the Report the "Madisonian" says: "Above all, we wish the reader to be imbued with the spirit of the Report; and should he fail to be convinced by its arguments, he could not fail to be edified and enlightened by its patriotism.—To convince all, transcends human ability; yet to accomplish any thing on this subject is almost a miracle.

"We shall not pretend to give, at this time, but a very brief, and perhaps imperfect, outline of the Report, or the Bill which accompanies it; for we are satisfied, that nothing short of attentively reading and thoroughly understanding both, will satisfy any one, who takes the least interest in the subject.

"The Report, we are given to understand, is a general exposition of the views entertained by the President on the subject of the Exchequer, and concurred in by the Cabinet.

"The necessity of a National Currency is dwelt upon—the safety of the public treasures considered; but the "great want of the country is the want of confidence," says the Secretary—"confidence in the steadiness and stability of the policy of the Government."

"The difficulty of obtaining Government loans is alluded to; and a BANK CONSIDERED AS OUT OF THE QUESTION."

## A BILL.

Amendatory of the several Acts establishing the Treasury Department.

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That there shall be, and hereby is, created and established in the Treasury Department at the seat of the Government of the United States, a Board to be called the Exchequer of the United States, to be composed of the Secretary of the Treasury for the time being, the Treasurer of the United States for the time being, and three Commissioners, to be appointed by the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate; one of the said commissioners first appointed to be appointed for two years, one for four years, and one for six years, and vacancies subsequently occurring to be so filled as that one vacancy shall regularly occur at the end of every period of two years; the said commissioners not to be removed from office, except for physical inability, incompetency, or neglect or violation of duty, and in case of any such removal, it shall be the duty of the President to lay the reason thereof before the Senate. And on the first organization of the Board, one of the three Commissioners shall, by the members thereof, be elected President, who shall hold his office for two years; and in like manner a new election shall take place afterwards at the end of each successive period of two years. And the Secretary of the Treasury shall have authority to appoint all such inferior officers as in

the judgment of the Board the transaction of its business may require, the amount of their respective compensations to be fixed by the Board, who may take bonds for the faithful discharge of their duty, for such sums and in such manner as the Secretary of the Treasury shall direct: And each of the said Commissioners shall receive an annual salary of — dollars.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That the said Board of Exchequer shall have power to establish agencies or offices in such of the cities or towns of the States and Territories of the United States as it may judge expedient, not exceeding two in any State or Territory, and also wherever Congress may by law require the same to be established; and such officers and agents as may by the Board of Exchequer be thought necessary for the management of such agencies, and the transaction of their business, shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury, on the recommendation of the Board of Exchequer; and the said Board shall have power to fix the amount of the respective compensations of such officers, and to provide regulations for the government of such agencies, the transaction of their business, and the rendering accounts of all their proceedings. And in such regulations they shall so assign and arrange the duties of the officers of the said agencies, as that one of those officers shall be a check and control upon the other, and for that purpose they shall require that the accounts and proceedings of each shall be entered in proper books. And any of the officers of the said agencies may be removed by the Secretary of the Treasury for physical inability or incompetency, or neglect or violation of duty, but it shall be his duty to state every removal of any principal officer of any agency, with his reason therefor, in his general annual report of the transactions of the Exchequer.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That the said Exchequer and its officers shall be the general agents of the Government of the United States for receiving, safe-keeping and disbursing the public moneys, and transferring and transmitting the same under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury; and all public moneys received, from whatever sources, shall, under the same directions, be paid into the said Exchequer or its agencies; and the principal officers employed in such agencies shall give bonds to the United States for such amount and in such form as the Secretary of the Treasury shall prescribe for the faithful performance of their duties. And the said Board of Exchequer and its several agencies shall pay all warrants, drafts or orders made thereon by the Treasurer of the United States, and by all disbursing officers and agents of the Government having authority to make such drafts or orders. And every such payment shall be made, at the option of the person entitled to receive it, in gold and silver coin or in Treasury notes.

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That the said Exchequer and its officers shall perform the duties of Commissioners of Loans, in receiving subscriptions, transferring stock, and paying dividends and interest thereon, under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury, and shall render to the Treasurer of the United States all necessary facilities for transferring and disbursing the public funds as shall be required by him, and shall perform all the duties of pension agents under the regulations prescribed by the Secretary of War, and shall render and perform all other duties and services in relation to the collecting, safe-keeping and disbursing of the public funds as shall be prescribed by law or by the Secretary of the Treasury.

Sec. 5. And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the Exchequer at the Seat of Government, and its several agencies, to receive on private deposit gold or silver coin or bullion, the property of individuals, to be held as in other cases of deposits made by individuals for convenience and security; and to issue certificates of the fact of such deposit having been made; which certificates shall always be redeemable on presentation at the agency where issued. But the amount so deposited shall never exceed in the whole fifteen millions of dollars, to be distributed by the Board among the several agencies according to the extent of their business respectively; and for issuing such certificates no higher premium shall be demanded than shall be sufficient to indemnify against the hazard of loss and remuneration for the safe keeping the deposit, and in no instance to exceed the one-half of one per cent. But paper issued by the Board and its several agencies, whether in the form of bills or certificates of deposit, shall be redeemable only at the place where issued, unless the Board shall see cause to order otherwise.

Sec. 6. And be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the said Board of Exchequer, within three months after its first organization, to establish such bylaws and rules of proceeding as it may judge expedient and proper for the regulation of its concerns and the government of its agencies; and copies of all existing by-laws and regulations shall be laid before Congress every year at its annual session.

Sec. 7. And be it further enacted, That the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized and directed to cause to be prepared Treasury notes of denominations not less than five dollars nor exceeding one thousand dollars, which notes shall be signed by the Treasurer of the United States and countersigned by the President of the Board of Exchequer, and made payable to the order of the principal agent at each agency, and shall be by him endorsed when issued at such agency, and which notes shall be redeemable and shall be redeemed in gold and silver, on demand, at the agency where issued; and Treasury notes intended to be issued by the Board of Exchequer at the seat of Government shall be in like form, and shall be payable to the order of the Commissioners, and shall be endorsed by some one of them when issued, and shall be redeemable and redeemed, at said Board, on demand, in gold and silver; and exact and perfect lists of all notes so signed shall be kept at the Treasury; and all

Treasury notes issued under the authority of this act may, when redeemed, be re-issued by the Board and its agencies respectively.

Sec. 8. And be it further enacted, That the amount of Treasury notes issued and outstanding shall not, at any one time, exceed the amount of fifteen millions of dollars, unless otherwise ordered or provided by law, and the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized, from time to time, on the application of the Board of Exchequer, to furnish for its own use and that of its several agencies a suitable amount of such notes, to be used in the transactions of its business; and all dues to the United States, or any officer or department thereof, may be paid in gold or silver coin, in Treasury notes issued under this act, or in the notes of banks which shall be immediately convertible into specie at the place where received.

Sec. 9. And be it further enacted, That the Board of Exchequer at the seat of Government and each of its agencies shall settle weekly, or oftener, with all banks in their neighborhood whose paper they may have received, and pay or collect as the case may be, all balances between it and said banks; and no individual shall be allowed at any time to stand as debtor to the Exchequer or any of its agencies in account; and it shall be the duty of the said Board of Exchequer, and each of its several agencies, at all times, so to limit its issues of its gold and silver on hand shall be equal to one-third the amount of such issues out standing.

Sec. 10. And be it further enacted, That the said Board of Exchequer may draw bills or drafts on any of its agencies; and may authorize any agency to draw bills or drafts on the Board or any other agency, and may sell and authorize its agencies to sell such bills or drafts for a premium not exceeding the fair cost of remitting specie to the place of payment, and in no case to exceed two per centum on the amount of such bill or draft.

Sec. 11. And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for said Board of Exchequer and each of its agencies to purchase domestic bills of exchange, subject to the following rules and regulations:

1. No bill of exchange shall be bought which is payable in the same State or territory in which it is drawn, nor any bill payable within less than — miles of the place of drawing.

2. Bills drawn on places not more than five hundred miles distant from the place of drawing shall not be drawn for a longer time than thirty days from date; and bills drawn on places more than five hundred miles from the place of drawing shall not be drawn for a longer time than thirty days from sight.

3. In no instance shall more be demanded from the seller of such bill, by way of interest or exchange, than an interest not exceeding six per cent. per annum for the time which the said bill has to run, and a rate of exchange never exceeding the cost of remitting specie, and in no case to exceed two per cent. And it shall not be lawful for the Board of Exchequer, or any agency, to purchase any bill drawn by or upon any member or officer thereof, or in which such member or officer shall in any way be interested; nor to receive any deposit of any money belonging to any such member or officer. And no bill shall be purchased, or draft sold at any agency, without the assent of at least two of the officers of such agency; nor by the Board of Exchequer without the assent of two of its members.

Sec. 12. And be it further enacted, That no agency established in any State under the provisions of this act shall, contrary to any law which such State may enact, receive any other deposits than those of the United States, or make or sell drafts, or purchase bills, other than such as shall be necessary in the collection, transfer, and disbursement of the public funds.

Sec. 13. And be it further enacted, That if at any time it shall be found necessary to carry on the operations of the Exchequer Board, and its agencies hereby created, the Secretary of the Treasury may cause to be prepared, issued, and delivered to the Exchequer Board certificates of stock of the United States, in the usual form, bearing interest at a rate not exceeding five per centum per annum, to an amount not exceeding five millions of dollars, the interest of which shall be payable semi annually, and the principal shall be redeemable at the pleasure of the Government after the expiration of twenty years from the issue thereof. And it shall be lawful for the said Exchequer Board to sell and transfer the said stock for gold or silver coin, or bullion. And it shall be the duty of the Exchequer Board to provide for the punctual payment of the interest on the said stock as it shall become due, and for the reimbursement of the principal from the profits and other means and resources of the Board and its agencies. But the faith of the Government, nevertheless, shall be pledged for the payment of the interest and the principal of such stock.

Sec. 14. And be it further enacted, That the Board of Exchequer and its several agencies shall keep separate and distinct sets of books, for the purpose of entering and recording, in one set, all transactions respecting the collection, keeping, and disbursing of the public revenue, and transmitting the public moneys from place to place for the service of Government, and in another, all transactions and accounts arising from dealings in exchange and other transactions not on Government account. And all profits accruing from dealing in exchange on individual account and from private deposits shall be applied in the first place to pay all salaries and compensations, and to defray all expenses incurred under the authority of this act, and the residue thereof shall be placed semi-annually to the credit of the Treasurer of the United States: Provided, nevertheless, That the said Board may defer all such credits to the Treasurer, until the amount of profits aforesaid beyond expenses shall exceed two millions of dollars, and may retain said

rights of the General Government in its Post Office Department.

If there is any grant of exclusive power to Congress upon which all unite in opinion, it is the power to establish post offices and post roads; and it may fairly be assumed as an admitted principle, that when Congress, in the exercise of that power, has established a post road, the right of a State, or the individuals of a State, to establish lines of transportation, for letters, packages, and newspapers, upon and over the same roads, for compensation, cannot be successfully maintained.

How far this usurped power has been exercised by individuals, and to what extent, I am not fully informed; but the information communicated to the Department induced me to avail myself of the services of the First Assistant Postmaster General, while on a temporary visit of business to Philadelphia, to collect and report to me such information upon the subject as his other engagements would permit; and I have the honor now to submit to you his report.

Another report from the First Assistant Postmaster General, herewith submitted, will present you with a detailed statement of the amount of mail service for the year ending the 30th June, 1841, and the rate of cost for the same in each State and Territory, distinguishing between each character of service. By this report it will appear that the United States mail was transported on railroads and steamboats 3,946,450 miles, at the cost of \$583,843; on horse and in sulkeys 12,088,862 miles, at a cost of \$781,807; in stages and in coaches 18,961,213 miles, at a cost of \$1,791,635; making a total aggregate of annual transportation of 14,998,525 miles, at the rate of cost of \$3,159,375.

The act of 1838 declares that "each railroad within the limits of the United States, which now is or hereafter may be completed shall be a post road;" and in that law, and the act of 1839, provisions limiting the amount beyond which the Postmaster General is prohibited from paying for the transportation of the mail on railways will be found.

Great embarrassments to the department have arisen in the making of contracts for the transportation of the mail with many of the railroad companies, under the laws now in force. The embarrassments arise mainly from two causes: the one, that the price which the Department is enabled to pay, whether in reference to the means or maximum fixed by the legislation of Congress, has been deemed inadequate by many of the principal companies. The other arises from an unwillingness on the part of some of the companies to run by a schedule prepared by the Department; preferring to run at such times as will best suit the travel upon the road; regarding as it is natural for them to do, the carrying of the mail as secondary to the transportation of passengers. The latter evil has been particularly felt in the great Southern mail, on its transit from Washington city to New York. The mailing south from New York is necessarily thrown upon the Philadelphia and Baltimore railroad in the night, between Philadelphia and Baltimore; and the Southern mail for New York is compelled to lie over twelve hours in Baltimore, unless the Philadelphia company can be induced to run that trip also in the night. This they have declined doing, unless the Department would pay them a compensation greater than is authorized by the laws of Congress. Under a hope that some arrangement could be made—to last during the session of Congress, if no longer—I addressed to the presidents of the railroad companies concerned in the transportation of the mail between the city of Washington and New York a letter, a copy of which, and the report of the First Assistant Postmaster General, on this subject, are herewith submitted.

An anxious desire to effect some permanent arrangement with the railroad companies for the transportation of the mail, upon a basis which shall be both just and uniform, considering the nature of the service performed by each, induced me to invite a meeting of the presidents of the different companies, in the city of Washington, on the 1st of January next, and I am gratified at the prompt manner in which all who have been heard from have consented to attend, and a hope is cherished that some arrangement, satisfactory to all parties and beneficial to the public, may yet be effected.

The improved mode of intercommunication by railroad and steam, operating under chartered rights granted by the States, and over which it is not pretended that the General Government, much less the Post Office Department, can exercise any control, imposes upon Congress, in my opinion, new duties and obligations, which can only be cancelled by the adoption of some measure whereby the Post Office Department may, upon adequate consideration, secure by compact the right to transport the mail in the cars of railroad companies, and at the same time give to the Department the power to control the departure and arrival of the same.

There is now paid to the different railroad companies, annually, over \$400,000 for the service, without power in the Department to regulate the travel, arrival and departure of the mail; and the constant and frequent difficulties, both in entering into and the execution of contracts, are presented.

It has occurred to me that the present is a most favorable period for the adoption of some measure by Congress, whereby to secure to the United States the right to transport the mail upon these roads in all time to come, free of any annual charge upon the Post Office Department, by the advancement of a sum in gross which may be agreed upon, to each of these companies, or such of them as may be willing to contract. Many of the railroad companies, and some of them constituting most important links in the great chain of intercommunication between Boston and Charleston, owing to the great derangement of the

monetary concerns of the world, and the depression of all State and company stocks, find themselves laboring under embarrassments and difficulties; which the aid of the General Government, applied in the way proposed, would effectually remove, and at the same time secure to the United States the advantage and the ample equivalent of transporting the mail upon these roads.

The credit of the United States to an amount not greater than the sum necessary to produce at five per cent. interest, the amount paid by the Post Office Department to these companies annually, would, I have no doubt be sufficient to accomplish this desirable end. The prompt and favorable action of Congress upon this subject at the present time, would effectually secure the Government against the danger of being called upon for occasional and large appropriations to meet the balances due by the Department.

Do I ask the United States to do more for the Post Office Department than justice would seem to demand, especially when it is remembered that the whole expense of the official correspondence of the Government and the public, and private correspondence of those entitled by law to the franking privilege, is sustained and paid by a tax upon the correspondence of the community? If by this arrangement the Department is relieved from the heavy and annual charge as now rated, (and it has neither the power to lessen it nor to prevent its increase,) it may be hoped that the object so much demanded by considerations of public justice (that of reducing the tax upon the friendly and business correspondence of individuals) will be attained, and, at the same time, the usefulness of the public mail greatly enlarged and extended to those portions of the Union hitherto measurably denied the necessary mail facilities.

If the Government was required to pay postage upon official correspondence, and if the franking privilege was abolished or reduced to proper limits, the revenue of the Department would be increased to an amount sufficient of itself to pay the interest upon the debt to be incurred by the proposed arrangement, and liquidate the principal in less than thirty years.

I respectfully submit to the President the views which I entertain and have here expressed upon this subject.

Some embarrassments to the free transit of the United States mail coaches over that part of the Cumberland road which lies within the limits of the State of Virginia have been experienced during the present year, incident to a right assumed by the authorities of that State to impose a tax upon the coach transporting the mail.

In the act of Congress proposing a cession of all right which the United States claimed over said road, upon certain conditions, to the States through which it passed, it was expressly provided that no toll upon the stages, coaches, &c., conveying the United States mail should be imposed. With this, among other reservations and exceptions, the States of Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Ohio, accepted the cession and assumed the control over so much of the road as is within their respective territories. It appears that, by a subsequent act of the Virginia Legislature so much of the act, by which she accepted the road, exempting the stage, coach, &c., conveying the United States mail from the payment of tolls, was repealed, and a tax was authorized to be, and was, imposed upon the same. Without detaining you with a further narrative upon this subject, I submit the letters and correspondence of the Department in relation thereto, and documents accompanying the same. Though the amount charged and exacted at the single gate in Virginia is inconsiderable, yet, if she has the right to impose the toll, the other States have an equal right, and will, most unquestionably, assert it; and thus an additional annual burden of near \$9,000 will be added to the transportation of the United States mail over that road, which is already the most expensive mail coach service in the United States.

It is proper I should inform you that the prosecution instituted against the agent of Virginia, before I was called to the discharge of the duties of this Department, for obstructing the passage of the United States mail on said road, by closing the toll gate against the free passage of the coach conveying the mail, has, upon my suggestion, been suspended for the present, under a hope that upon a full representation of this subject, by the proper authority, to the State of Virginia, all cause of difficulty might be removed, without the necessity of a penal prosecution.

I submit, for your information, the report of the chief clerk of the Post Office Department, in reference to the expenditure of appropriation, made at the extra session of Congress, to pay the debt due to contractors and others, for services rendered prior to the 31st of March, 1841.

There are other matters of detail, connected with the service of this Department, which by law are required to be reported to Congress; and it is therefore deemed inexpedient to bring them particularly to your notice in this communication.

I have the honor to be, with respectful consideration, your obedient servant,

C. A. WICKLIFFE.

STATE BANK OF ILLINOIS,  
Dec. 29th, 1841.

At a meeting of the Directors of this Bank, held on the 21st inst., the following preamble and resolutions were adopted, viz: "Whereas a circular has been received from the President of the State Bank of Indiana, setting forth that the said Bank will be prepared to unite with the banks of Ohio and Kentucky in the resumption of specie payment, on the first day of August next; Therefore

"Resolved, That the State Bank of Illinois and its Branches will be prepared to join with the Banks of Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky, in the resumption of specie payment on the said 1st day of August next."

By order of the Board,  
N. H. RIDGELY, Cashier.

Thus it will be seen that the probable amount of expenditure will exceed the amount of revenue, as estimated, by \$110,000.

With this deficit presenting itself so palpably to my mind, I have essayed to infuse into the administration of the service a rigid economy; yet, with all the savings which it may be possible to make by the most rigid economy, I am satisfied the expenditure cannot be reduced within the income, without either reducing the transportation of the mail below the just wants of the community, or in some other mode increasing the revenue of the Department.

To continue the present amount of service, and extend it with the growth and spread of our population, particularly in the West, the present revenue, with its former charges, is evidently inadequate; and a reduction of that service greatly below its present standard would have to take place, unless Congress make an appropriation from the public Treasury, which I neither ask nor desire to see made.

Upon a view of all the circumstances, and with a perfect sense of the responsibility assumed, I have felt myself imperiously called upon to exercise a power vested by the act of 1825 in the Postmaster General, and have readjusted the commissions heretofore allowed to deputy postmasters. By this regulation, a copy of which is annexed, there will be added to the net annual income of the Department about \$100,000. I thought it better to do this than either to ask Congress for an appropriation or to reduce the transportation of the mail below the just wants of the community.

When it is known that this reduction has been made to enable the Department to send intelligence among the people, by continuing and extending mail facilities, and not in a spirit of parsimonious economy, the liberal and enlightened of all sections will, I am persuaded, approve what has been done; and I will not allow myself to believe that those whom it most immediately affects will view it in an illiberal spirit.

Should Congress, however, not approve of this measure, they will have it in their power, before the order takes effect, to arrest its force; and will no doubt adopt the necessary measures to require the reduction of mail service, or to provide the means of paying the balance which will be due to contractors at the end of the year.

The annexed report of the Auditor of the Post Office Department (marked B) will exhibit the progress which has been made in the adjustment and liquidation of the accounts of postmasters since the 4th of March last.

It is to be expected that among the 14,000 deputy postmasters (appointed generally without a personal knowledge of the individuals or their securities) there will be found some who will prove faithless to their trusts, and whose securities are not good for the amount due the Department. In view of this, I have instituted a rigid inquiry, not only into the fitness and business qualifications of the postmasters, but the solvency of their securities, from which the best results may be anticipated. This operation, performed in part by the special agents of the Department, under the letter of instructions annexed, (marked C) and the prompt settlement of the accounts of all postmasters, will more effectually guard the department from losses by defaulting masters.

The reduction of the postage upon letters is a subject which has engaged the public attention for years, and is one of great interest to the whole community.

It is contended by many, whose opinions are entitled to respectful consideration, that the reduction of postage would give an increase of revenue. Without undertaking to discuss this question at present, I am not prepared, from the present financial condition of the department, to recommend a reduction of the rates of postage, as now fixed by law, but invite a modification of them so far as to make them conform more generally to the smaller coin of the United States, and solicit a revision of the laws regulating the postage on newspapers.

I do not desire that the rates of postage on newspapers proper should be increased, though much might be saved to the Department if the principle of pre-postage was applied to newspapers, provided such regulation was deemed acceptable to public opinion. I must, however, earnestly invite your attention, and hope you will call that of Congress, to the necessity of the enactment of some law by which a just discrimination may be made in the imposition of postage on newspapers proper and those unmonth periodicals which assume the name and shape of newspapers; but which are, in fact, the republication of books, reviews, and novels, sent through the postoffice, not always to subscribers, but in large masses to agents, to vend in the markets of the more distant cities, towns, and villages, which greatly increase the size and weight of the mails and the expense of transportation, without a corresponding remuneration to the Department. The great number of these large publications which have been sent by the mail from Baltimore to Wheeling has mainly contributed to the frequent irregularities of the Western mails for the last twelve months. I respectfully inquire whether it is just that the United States mail shall be compelled to transport one of these papers, weighing nearly a pound, for a cent and a half, from Boston or New York to Louisville, Ky., to a factor, to sell for the benefit of the publisher, while the letter of friendship or of business is taxed with twenty-five cents postage between the same points.

I have already alluded to the establishment of what are called private expresses, for the carrying of letters, packages, and newspapers, upon the post roads of the United States, for pay and compensation, as one cause tending greatly to the reduction of the revenue of the Department. I must beg leave again to bring the subject more particularly to your notice, under a hope that you will invite that of Congress to the necessity of some further legislation, more effectually to protect the interests and